The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid I cannot comply with that request. The District Magistrate is entitled to get advice and opinion from anybody, official or non-official. All that we are concerned is that we get our advice from the District Magistrate and the District Judge."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" The District Superintendent of Police ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" There are no rules on this matter. I do not know what the practice has been. All that I can say is that, so far as the policy of the Government is concerned in this matter at present, the District Magistrate and the District Judge are the only two persons who are consulted and nobody else."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Formerly there was a rule, now abrogated, which asked the District Magistrates . . ."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" There is no question of abrogation. Government's policy has been always to accept the recommendations of the Collector and the Judge whenever they agree. But when they are at variance with each other, then it is that the Government have to make up their minds and choose a person themselves."

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" My impression is that there was an old Government Order which asked the District Magistrate to consult the District Superintendent of Police. But two or three years ago a notification was issued by Government deprecating that practice."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—" Will the hon. the Law Member say if he does not agree that such a practice is unwholesome if it exists to-day ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I am afraid I am not prepared to answer that question."

Members of the Legislative Council holding posts under Government.

* 108 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any members of this Council who hold posts of official or quasi-official character such as Official Receiver or Government Pleader or Public Prosecutor for which they are entitled to remuneration from Government or fees from the estates they manage in official or quasi-official character ; and

(*b*) whether such members give sufficient attention to their official or quasi-official functions while their time is taken for attending the Council ?

A.—(*a*) So far as the Government are aware there is only one member of the Legislative Council who holds a quasi-official position.

(*b*) The Government have no information to the contrary.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) may I know the name of the hon. Member referred to ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The hon. Member for South Kanara who is the Official Receiver for South Kanara."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" There are two members."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" That hon. Member for South Kanara who is also the Official Receiver for South Kanara (laughter.)"

Criminal Justice.

Crimes in Cuddapah district.

* 109 *Q.*—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of crimes reported in the Cuddapah district to the Police, the number detected and charged by them and the number ending in conviction during the calendar years 1922 to 1924 ;

(*b*) the total number of P.R. cases before the magistrates during the years 1922–23 and 1924, the number that ended in discharge before them, the number committed to the Sessions Court and the number ending in conviction and acquittals there during the said three years ; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the quality of police work in the district has deteriorated ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information other than what is contained in the published reports of statistics of criminal courts. The statistics for 1924 have not yet been received.

(*c*) The Government have formed no such opinion.

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—" Notwithstanding the fact that crime is increasing in the Cuddapah district, may I know whether Government are not anxious to improve the quality of the work of the Police in the district ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" The criminal propensities of the Ceded Districts, particularly the district of Cuddapah, are well known to hon. Members of this House, as well as to Government. Government is naturally anxious to see that the number of crimes diminishes. Next to Coimbatore, I think, I may say that Cuddapah has the largest number of crimes (laughter.)"

11-15 a.m. Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Coimbatore is noted for murders, Sir, but not for other crimes. (laughter.)"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Coimbatore specialises in murders, and Cuddapah in bombs. But it is undoubted that the number of crimes is very distressing and Government from time to time impress upon the officers the necessity of keeping the investigation and detection of crimes up to the mark in the matter. And if hon. Members have any definite suggestions to make I shall be very glad to receive them and try to act upon them."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" One obvious suggestion is that if all the drink shops are closed, the number of murders will be very largely reduced."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I take it that though the question is addressed to me, it is meant for my hon. Colleague."